One suggestion was for the State Library to serve as a clearinghouse for sharing information between localities about what works in other areas within the state.

5) Advocacy for library participation in the network

Advocacy for library participation in the network is partly a visibility issue, but also a larger combined issue of providing assistance to help libraries get connected (priority 1), coordinating participation of multi-type libraries (priority 7), and leadership for, among other things, library participation in information networking in the state (priority 3). One participant called advocacy an "evangelical" role.

6) Statewide licensing of online resources

Statewide licensing of online resources was mentioned at four of the five discussion sites and was the dominant "economy of scale" suggestion. There were also suggestions that the State Library could negotiate reduced prices for libraries on technology and telecommunications costs. Also to be considered under the broader issue of large scale economies is the technical support issue. Several comments seeking technical support emerged from points in the discussion where it was noted that most library staffs do not have the resources needed to provide adequate technical support.

7) Coordinating multi-type library participation

The priority item for coordinating multi-type library participation arises from a general expression that the State Library information networking efforts cannot be limited to public library participation and from a pervading concern for coordination of efforts generally.

8) Advocacy for the historical record

There were two types of "historical records" discussed. The JNR consultants believe that this blending resulted from the use of the term "archiving" in the discussion. Archiving means preserving electronic data for later retrieval by computers, and it means preserving old print documents and other materials for patrons by placing them on the computer. Participants called for both in an online network setting: 1) the ability to retrieve five or ten years from now material that is available today online (such as electronic journals); and 2) using the new electronic medium to make traditional archival material, including rare, friable, or too-valuable-to-be-handled items, more available to the public.

Comments on archiving present-day electronic content for future material were made in Chapel Hill, Statesville, and Fayetteville. This expressed a general concern of record keeping practices in the electronic information age: resources should not only be stored, but they should be readily accessible long into the future.